

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,060,573 to Konig et al. (hereinafter "Konig") taken in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,688,890 to Ishiguro et al. (hereinafter "Ishiguro"). The Examiner suggests that Konig discloses the presently claimed polyurethane stoving coating composition except for the claimed tetravalent titanium compounds and that it would have been obvious to use the tetravalent titanium compound disclosed in Ishiguro in the coating composition of Konig in order to impart excellent modability and uniformity. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Applicants discovered a one-component polyurethane coating composition mixture having sufficiently good crosslinking at a stoving temperature of 90°C/30 minutes. The inventive polyurethane stoving coating composition includes a polyisocyanate blocked with a CH-acidic ester, OH-containing polymeric compound, and a tetravalent titanium compound. Applicants have found that the presence of the tetravalent organic titanium compound as catalyst provides for stoving temperatures of less than 100°C, which was a problem in the prior art (page 1, lines 24-28 of the specification).

Konig discloses a blocked polyisocyanate which has isocyanate groups blocked with CH-acidic esters, a content of blocked isocyanate groups, and a content of formaldehyde. The blocked polyisocyanates are used in one-component polyurethane stoving compositions, which may be cured at relatively low stoving temperature of about 100°C, as crosslinking agents for organic polyhydroxy compounds.

Ishiguro discloses a thermoplastic polyurethane composition that includes a thermoplastic polyurethane and a tin compound. The thermoplastic polyurethane composition has a retention ratio of long-chain hard segments when melt treated at 220°C for 60 minutes of at least 85%.

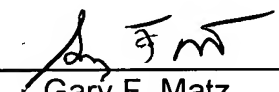
When combining references, the burden is on the Examiner to show some motivation in the cited prior art to modify the primary reference with another reference. The Examiner's suggested motivation is that one skilled in the art looking to provide coating composition with excellent modability and uniformity would be motivated to use the tetravalent titanium compound disclosed by Ishiguro. However, that is not the problem Applicants were trying to solve, so it has no bearing whatsoever on the present invention.

Applicants were looking to provide a one-component polyurethane coating composition with a stoving temperature of less than 100°C. Using the Examiner's combination of references and applying them to the problem to be solved, the Examiner's combination would suggest that a skilled artisan seeking a one-component polyurethane coating composition with a stoving temperature of less than 100°C would be motivated to combine the Konig composition, which has a stoving temperature of about 100°C with the tetravalent titanium compound disclosed by Ishiguro, because it is used for processing polymers at 220°C. Clearly, there is no suggestion, description, motivation or teaching in the combination of Konig and Ishiguro that lead a skilled artisan to the claimed one-component polyurethane coating composition, which have stoving temperatures of less than 100°C.

As the combined references do not teach, or in any way suggest the present invention, the rejection of Claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) should be withdrawn.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of Claims 1-5 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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